

The Sun.

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Is the Democracy to Have Nothing?

For instance, the clause in the Tariff bill taxing lumber has been stricken out in the Senate upon the demand of Senator ALLEN of Nebraska, Populist.

The clause in the Wilson bill admitting sugar free has been stricken out at the demand of some other Senators and Secretary CARLISLE, sugar people.

Why should not the clause in the Tariff bill taxing incomes be stricken out at the demand of Senator HILL, Democrat, or Senator GRAY and the Hon. ANTHONY HIGGINS, the Senators in Congress from Delaware. It is, of course, Mr. GRAY's duty as a Democrat to oppose this Populist scheme of taxation, but to Mr. HIGGINS the resolution will come as a reminder of what he has done in the divided duty. As a citizen of Delaware he cannot be unmoved by an appeal of its business men against a communistic raid upon business enterprise. As a Republican Senator, however, he would be more or less than human if he did not regard with satisfaction and amusement the infatuation of the Democrats for a measure that will make business interests and the great financial and commercial boards and the whole body of thirty small tradesmen and wage earners and salaried men hostile to the Democratic party. Mr. HIGGINS and the other Republican Senators may insist that it is not part of their business to save the Democratic party from the punishment of its folly, and that it must assume the entire responsibility for the power with which it is entrusted. They will feel no inclination to cut it down if it tries to hang itself.

The Populist is, however, not to be beaten by Democrats. It is too much to expect that the Republicans will show such a lofty spirit of patriotism as to protect the Democracy against itself.

Ships of Peace for Times of War.

Recent statistics compiled at the Navy Department show that the mercantile marine of this country could furnish more than two score steam vessels capable of being armed with rapid-firing guns and used as cruisers, besides a large number that could be employed as transports.

Such statistics are, however, because nations which maintain far stronger navies than ours count largely on their merchant ships as auxiliaries, and it is satisfactory to know that we, too, have some such resources. Secretary TRACY once said, in a report to Congress, that "the vast transatlantic liners, nationalized in foreign countries, but supported and maintained by American trade and American passengers, many of them even captained by American officers, are a powerful factor in the naval force of the Governments whose flags they bear, and at whose disposal they must place themselves in time of war." He added that it was "difficult to imagine a more effective commerce destroyer than the steamship City of Paris, armed with a battery of rapid-firing guns. She can steam over 21 knots an hour, and can average 19.9 knots from land to land across the Atlantic. A fleet of such cruisers would sweep an enemy's commerce from the ocean."

The first step, we believe, toward ascertaining the extent of our modern resources from the mercantile marine for an auxiliary navy, were taken under Secretary WHITNEY. He directed the Naval Board of Inspection at New York to make a report on that subject, and it selected as available at that time the Louisiana of the General line and the Newport of the Pacific Mail line. Their reports were made, we believe, of vessels available at other ports. The subject excited so much interest that a bill was introduced into the Senate in 1887 "to create a naval reserve of auxiliary cruisers, officers, and men from the mercantile marine," and offering an annual compensation to the owners of steam vessels that conformed to certain requirements and were kept ready for Government service.

In later years came Mr. FRYE's bill for a similar purpose, and then a decided impetus was given to the movement for an auxiliary navy by the act admitting to American registry the craft Clyde-built liners City of Paris and City of New York, the former of which had been the very vessel mentioned by Secretary TRACY as a model commerce destroyer. As will be remembered, this act, by its conditions, required the building also of two splendid ocean passenger vessels in this country, while authorized statements were then made that three additional would be constructed, thus making seven vessels of high type for an auxiliary navy guaranteed in connection with that one measure.

It is worth noting that the Paris and New York of the former line received their American registry as a result of the Government's practical experience in the controversy with Chili. It was found that they could not be chartered for immediate use, since Lord ROSEBURY had won the Derby, there is nothing left on the turf worth striving for, whereas, if he now abandons racing in deference to the protests of the non-conformists, he will acquire an extraordinary hold upon their good will and confidence.

Lord Rosebury and His Horse.

The winning of the Derby by his horse Ladas will probably expose Lord ROSEBURY to the disagreeable alternative of renouncing the turf altogether or of resigning the office of Prime Minister. The precedents for the combination of horse racing and statesmanship are all misleading, because they refer to a period remote in character if not in date, and because they leave out of account the tremendous change which has taken place in the composition of the elements of the British electorate, and especially in the composition of the Liberal party. Neither the great Lord DUNBAR nor Lord PALMERSTON was dependent upon non-conformist votes for political ascendancy, and the same thing was more conspicuously true of Lord GEORGE BENTINCK, who nevertheless abandoned the race track when he was persuaded by Mr. DISRAELI to go into politics. Sir WILLIAM HAMILTON, however, who was not a member of the House of Commons, lost, showed a clear conception of the views now dominant among the Liberal constituencies, when he refused to allow the House of Commons to adjourn over Derby day. He foresaw that those controlling components of his party which jeopardized the home rule cause by forcing Mr. GLADSTONE to repudiate Mr. PARNELL on the score of a delinquency formerly common among Prime Ministers, would never tolerate the opposition to meet by a Premier's example to a form of gambling which had wrought havoc in Great Britain.

The fact should be distinctly kept in mind that what for lack of a better term is still called the Gladstonian party is, as regards its factors, a very different body from the Whig party headed by Lord GREY, Lord MELBOURNE, and Lord JOHN RUSSELL, or even from the Liberal party as it was when Mr. GLADSTONE first became a leader twenty-nine years ago. The second Reform act, which, although passed by a Tory Government, was of course a reluctant concession to Radical agitation; the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Ireland; the successive violations of freedom of contract involved in the agrarian legislation for Ireland; the enfranchisement of the agricultural laborers by the third Reform act; the opposition to meet by a Premier's example to a form of gambling which had wrought havoc in Great Britain.

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strengthening powerful harbor tugs to use as rams in coast defence has lately attracted the attention of naval experts.

Secretary WHITNEY, in a letter to a member of the House Naval Committee, once declared that "it is both necessary and economical that the Government should have in reserve a fleet of auxiliary merchant ships, previously prepared with the necessary fittings for instant conversion into light cruisers, and that the necessary cost of the conversion would be more than offset by the Government in time of war." The advantage of making such a list of auxiliary vessels as has just been completed in this besides knowing exactly where they are to be found, with their dimensions and strength, the Government can accumulate guns, ammunition, and other fittings suited to them. It has even been pointed out how, with a little care in original construction, a vessel can be so fitted up that it can be used for Government purposes could be so prepared with holes and eyebolts as to allow brackets to be placed in them at any time for armaments. In that case the broadside batteries given to them when chartered in an emergency for war purposes would be a far better lot of fire.

That, however, brings up a different point, namely, construction with a different view to character for war purposes. Without going into that matter, it is clear that such a list as is now prepared will allow the naval authorities to make a note of exactly what strengthening each existing vessel needs, and exactly what battery it could carry, and thus to accumulate the ordnance, equipment, and other material necessary for putting it into commission promptly as a naval auxiliary.

The Free Lectures.

On an evening in January last a gentleman betook himself to the assembly hall of one of our grammar schools to deliver his first lecture in the course of Free Lectures to the People.

It was a wild, stormy night, and any one who did not know with what avidity thousands of the working men and working women of this city avail themselves of every means of self-improvement within their reach, would have expected to see not more than a baker's dozen in the audience. The gentleman, however, arriving at the hall fifteen minutes before the lecture began, found the doors closed and people being turned away. A gentleman, however, who had been waiting outside, told him that the lecture was postponed.

This was not an exceptional case, but was the experience at many of the three hundred and eighty-three lectures delivered in the Free Course from November to March last; and the sixty or seventy men who lectured will testify to the eager attention and intelligent interest of their audiences.

In his annual report, Dr. H. M. LADD, who has just completed his first year, says that the attendance during the past season was 170,368. We have no doubt that the attendance would have greatly exceeded 200,000 if the accommodations had been commensurate with the popular interest. Madison Hall and the Hebrew Institute will hold just about twice as many people as the average grammar school assembly room, and the attendance at the larger places has been steadily increasing.

On the whole the attendance at the lectures, which were given twice a week at twelve different centres of population, was limited only by the capacity of the halls.

These lectures have been given every year since January, 1889, and they seem now to be firmly established as a very important feature of our educational work.

They are in a high degree educational. The management has no thought of supplying them with entertainment, nor is it to be expected that they should be so. The constant aim is to edify. The constant tendency is to widen the mental and moral horizon of our work-day people, because, in these semi-weekly lectures, they come into contact with writers, teachers, travellers, historians, and scientific men, who tell them, in a popular way, the latest facts in science, history, geography, and literature.

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